

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13TH MAY 2008 AT 7.00PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

1. Present

Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton, Browse, Corden, Gibbs, Lane-Smith, Radford and Wooding, CClr Des Hannon and four Members of the Public

2. Apologies

Beat Officer Katie Rich, WPSO Mel Smith, Carole Graham and Helen Corden

3. Public Forum

A parishioner expressed concern as to the tree outside the Barge which was creating a possible accident blackspot. Cllr Mrs Jepps advised that the Manager of the Barge was taking steps to remove the tree within the next day or so

4. Election of Chair and Vice –Chair

There were two proposals for Chairman which were seconded – Cllrs Browse and Lane-Smith. Votes were cast and the result was:- 7 votes for Cllr Browse and 3 votes for Cllr Lane –Smith. Cllr Browse was voted in as Chairman. The Chairman made his declaration of office.

There were two proposals for the Vice-Chairman which were seconded – Cllrs Britton and Lane-Smith. Votes were cast and the result was – Cllr Britton 5 votes, Cllr Lane-Smith 4 votes and 1 “no vote”. Cllr Britton was voted in as Vice-Chairman

5. Appointment of Committees and other Appointments

Cllr Radford announced his intention to stand down as Chairman of the PC's Planning Committee. It was decided that in preparation for the next Planning Cttee Meeting that it would be appropriate for nominations to be taken now for a replacement Chairman. Cllr Corden was proposed By Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and seconded by Cllr Britton. This was carried unanimously. Cllr Radford was thanked by the Chairman for all his stirring work as Planning Cttee Chairman over the past year. The other PC Cttes would remain as per existing with the inclusion of Cllr Britton on all Cttes in his capacity as Vice- Chairman. Chairmen of the various Cttes would be elected (other than for Planning Cttee) at the first meetings of the year. The various outside organisations would have the same PCllrs as their representatives.

6. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th April 2008 were approved without amendment.

7. Matters Arising

- i. The Notice Board was back in situ. Roy had made an excellent job of the refurbishment. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to him by the Clerk. The plaque would be erected shortly. It would be in order for the Clerk to reimburse Cllr Mrs Johnstone of the cost of the Board as she had kindly paid for the Board on the PC's behalf.
- ii. Robin Budgell of Halberton Methodist Church had sent a letter of thanks in respect of the £200 donation which had been used towards the cost of equipment for the Methodist Youth Club. He also provided supporting invoices to confirm receipt of the items of equipment purchased.
- iii. Mid Devon District Citizens Advice Bureau had sent a letter of thanks for the PC's donation of £100.

- iv. Gary Pilling of MDDC had confirmed that the bin at the Rec would be emptied on a weekly basis at a cost of £50 per annum
- v. The Clerk had received letters of support from various Parish Councils regarding the concerns of Halberton PC in respect of MDDC proposing to reduce future S106 monies from the parishes who had their funds “managed” by MDDC. However as yet, no one had offered to make a financial contribution towards the cost of instructing a specialist to examine this matter to confirm whether or not MDDC was acting ultra vires.

8. Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman thanked the PC for re-electing him as Chairman. He would serve the Parish to the best of his ability. He congratulated Cllr Corden on behalf of the PC on being elected to MDDC’s Standards Ctte as the Additional Parish Council Representative. In addition David Hitt had been appointed as the new Independent Member of the Ctte He mentioned that he had been contacted by Willand PC regarding the layby near Agri-Chemical on which rubbish had been dumped. It was suggested that a litter bin be erected at the lay-by which hopefully would resolve this problem. The question was also raised about the construction of a cycleway along that route

9. Police Matters

There were no police matters

10. 20mph Speed Limit Update

The Clerk had still not received the data. Cllr Hannon suggested that Clerk e-mail Jodie Barrett at DCC and copy him into the e-mail. It was understood that the white lines which had had the desired effect of drivers slowing down along the main street, were starting to fade. It was agreed that the Clerk would formally write to Des asking for a meeting to be set up with himself present and also Meg Booth DCC and the Chairman of the PC. It was requested that “Parking Issues ” be an item for the next agenda.

11. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. MDDC wef 5th May had taken on the responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions on the streets of Mid Devon and traffic wardens would be replaced by Civil Enforcement Officers. Officers would patrol streets with pay and display parking, double yellow lines and other parking restrictions as well as the off street car parks. They would issue Penalty Charge Notices to parked vehicles which were breaking traffic rules
- ii. The Annual Meeting of MDDC took place on 7th May. Cllr Mrs M Squires was elected for a second term as Chairman of MDDC for 2008/09. The PC to inform the Chairman’s Secretary of the PC’s meetings for the year as Cllr Mrs Squires was intending to attend a PC Meeting. In addition Cllr Peter Hare-Scott was elected as Leader of the Council, Cllr F Rosamund was appointed for a second term as Vice-Chairman of the District Council and Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe was appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council. The Clerk to provide the Chairman’s Secretary with details of the newly elected Chairman of the PC. The Clerk to include on the June agenda nominations for people of the Parish whom the PC considered had made a significant contribution to their community.
- iii. Any complaints by members of the public regarding the conduct of a district, town or parish councillor could now be made directly to MDDC rather than reporting them to the Standards Board for England
- iv. MDDC was introducing the Green Cone Scheme to encourage home composting. The pilot scheme was to be carried out in the Washfield and Stoodley areas and would dispose of more than 5kg of food waste a week which was 25% greater than that produced by the average household. The food waste would be converted into water carbon dioxide and a small amount of

residue, without the need for user intervention such as the mixing or turning of waste. The system would take all household food waste, including vegetable scraps raw and cooked meat or fish, bones, dairy products and other organic food waste such as bread and pastas

12. Devon County Council Matters

- i. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert expressed thanks for the re-surfacing works carried out around Halberton
- ii. It was understood from Mr Butler that no progress had been made re the problem of flooding at Lower Town. Cllr Hannon apologised on behalf of DCC. The Clerk to e-mail the PC's contact at DCC to remind them of the outstanding matter and copy in Cllr Hannon
- iii. The pothole near the school had still not been filled in but a white chalk mark had been put around it, indicating (hopefully) that work was imminent
- iv. The problem of the water coming off fields and flooding the lane between Thurlescombe and Rowridge was now a legal matter
- v. The footpath surface between Church Path and Corner Lane had still not been properly repaired
- vi. The road from Brithem Bottom to Five Bridges was in a poor state of repair
- vii. The works to the road between Battens Farm entrance and Ivy House Cross was still outstanding (Mr and Mrs Venner)
- viii. The sign for Brithem Bottom (requesting large vehicles not to use the lane) was still not in situ

All the outstanding matters again to be e-mailed to DCC and CCllr Hannon copied in

13. Devon Primary Care Trust – Joint Strategic Review

The Trust recently undertook a Joint Strategic Review on health and social care in Devon. There was now a strategic framework for Devon that set out the key health and social care priorities for the next 5 years. The framework “the way ahead” was available on line. There were also health and social care profiles of each Devon Town on line. The Clerk had further details for any interested Cllr.

14. Community Workforce Update

Cllr Lane-Smith was thanked for organising the Community Workforce with regard to a number of jobs which they had carried out in the Village. He went through the list of tasks which had been completed. Cllr Lane-Smith thanked Cllr Britton for digging out the damaged post at the Rec` in appalling conditions. His hard work was very much appreciated.

15. Parish Plan Update

Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert and Johnstone had been liaising about the Plan. and were proposing that there should be:- i. bullet points re Parishioners wish list, ii. the noting of aspects of the Plan which had been achieved, iii. whether parishioners required any changes and the provision of an Emergency Plan

16. Proposed Removal of Payphones in Halberton and Ash Thomas by BT

BT was proposing to remove the payphones in Ash Thomas and Halberton. Representations to BT had to be made before 2nd July. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to BT requesting full data about the usage of both boxes, annual costs incurred by BT in providing these boxes etc. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would ensure that an item be included in the Newsletter in order that parishioners could make their views known as soon as possible, in order that the PC could gauge strength of feeling regarding the proposed removal. The matter to be included as an item on the June agenda.

17. Boundary Committee Review Update

MDDC has put forward two possible options for unitary councils in Devon – Option A - a single unitary council for Devon excluding Plymouth and Torbay or Option B – Western Devon, Eastern Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. DCC believed that three unitary councils should be created – Plymouth, Torbay and Devon which it believed would reduce the administrative costs of local government and ease the burden on Council Tax.

Cllr Hannon advised that any comments which the PC or individuals submitted to the Commission would be made public. It was important that the comments of the PC be submitted at the relevant time.

18. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

The Clerk had received brief information about the Act from DAPC. DAPC advised that much of the Act was unclear, however one provision which was relevant was the fact that S.70 of the new Act amended the 1972 Local Government Act with the result that the Chairman and Vice Chair of a parish or town council could not be chosen from amongst members who had been co-opted. These office holders could only be members who had stood for election

19. Car Park/Footpath Update

A recent meeting had taken place attended by the Chairman and Cllr Lane-Smith. Roger Folley from DCC was also present. Cllr Lane-Smith advised that the meeting had been productive. Mr Folley would consider various options and report back to the PC

20. Meetings Attended

Standards Cttee Training Session at MDDC

Cllrs Corden and Lane-Smith attended this and were both pleased to note that they had reached the same conclusions as the National Body on their findings in relation to various scenarios.

15th April 2008 – Devon County Direct Payment Road Show.

Cllr Gibbs attended this and provided a full report. He found the "Show" to be most informative and useful with regards to provision for carers

21. Future Meetings

20th May 2008 – Mid Devon Transport Group Stakeholder Forum – Sunningmead Community Centre, Tiverton

Cllr Gibbs would be unable to attend. If any other PCllr was available, the Clerk had all the information available.

27th May 2008 – Amenities Cttee Meeting 7.30pm – to meet at the Rec` (and if required Planning Cttee Meeting)

5th June 2008 – Current Legislation – Exminster

The Chairman would try and attend. However he would inform the Clerk if he was unable to attend due to work commitments in order that she could cancel his place.

22. Committee Reports

Cemetery

Cllr Saunders had now erected the fence at the cemetery. Thanks were expressed for this work. Part of the tree had been removed in the cemetery. It was suggested that the remaining part also be removed but for the moment the tree would be monitored. There were a number of graves and grave stones requiring attention according to Cllr Lane Smith. He passed details to the Clerk

who would investigate further as to next of kin details etc. It was noted that procedures had to be complied with in the event of the next of kin/relative not being located with regard to the carrying out of the repairs to the headstones. Cllr Mrs Jepps had examined two headstones in the cemetery at the request of a parishioner who had written requesting that permission be granted for her to arrange a stonemason to carry out works to the headstones. The Clerk to advise the parishioner that this would be in order.

Footpaths

The PC had received the P3 grant for 2008/09 in the sum of £385

23. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

24. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30th APRIL 2008:

Bank Interest	46.83
Newsletter	530.96
Cemetery Grant 2007/08	300.00
Churchyard Grant 2007/08	50.00
P.Paths Grant 2007/08	385.00
Cemetery Fees	580.00
Repayment of VAT	3971.84
Precept	10,782.00
TOTAL	£16,646.63

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30th APRIL 2008 £1208.83

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
DD	19.62		19.62	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1195	337.97		337.97	Education Matters – Publication of Newsletter
1196	15.00		15.00	Mrs J Austin – Delivery Costs of Newsletter
1197	19.52	3.42	22.94	Ottery Office Practice – Copying and stationery
1198	1111.50		1111.50	Allianz Insurance Premium 2008/09
1199	11.40		11.40	Seddons – repayment of advertising fee
1200	27.89		27.89	Mrs C McIntyre – Repayment of stationery & stamps
1201	340.63		340.63	Mrs C McIntyre – salary May/June
1202	272.54	47.69	320.23	B Lane-Smith – repayment of cost of materials for amenities
1203	22.43	3.93	26.36	Ottery Office Practice – Copying costs
1204	339.75	59.46	399.21	Gardencare – Grass Cutting of Cemetery, the Mead and the Rec
1205	11.90	2.08	13.98	B Lane-Smith – repayment of cost of watering cans

The above accounts were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	14567.80
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 30 th April	16646.63
	TOTAL £31214.43
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1208.83
	TOTAL £30005.60

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	28142.09
Current A/c	1863.51
	TOTAL £30005.60

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	1500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2108.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	1500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	24463.27
TOTAL	£30005.60

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st - 30th April 2008 = £530.96 less expenditure £0 = Profit £530.96

25. Members Business

Nothing raised

26. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Chairman would liaise with the Barge regarding any expenditure they had incurred in connection with the judges visit relating to the Calor Village of the Year Competition
- ii. Post Office Ltd was scheduled to release its plans for public consultation on the proposed closures of post offices in the Devon area on 20th May. The consultation period would be for six weeks only.
- iii. The owners of Greenway House were concerned about brambles being cut from land on the opposite side of the road to their property which were then being dumped on Greenway House land. The Chairman would look into this matter.

27. Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held at Halberton Village Hall on 10th June 2008 at 7.00pm

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED